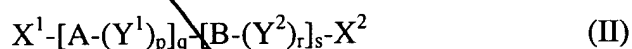


PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT and RESPONSE
TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF
SPECIES REQUIREMENT
U.S. Application No.: 09/831,509

Sub C3
B2
6 (Amended) The fluorine-containing rubber composition for crosslinking of Claim 2, wherein the fluorine-containing elastomer has carboxyl group at an end of a trunk chain and/or branched chain as a crosslinkable group and is represented by the formula (I):



or the formula (II):



wherein X^1 and X^2 are the same or different and each is carboxyl group, alkoxycarbonyl group, iodine atom, bromine atom or sulfonic acid group, Y , Y^1 and Y^2 are the same or different and each is a divalent organic group having carboxyl group, alkoxycarbonyl group, iodine atom, bromine atom or nitrile group at a side chain thereof, A is an elastomeric fluorine-containing polymer chain segment, B is a non-elastomeric fluorine-containing polymer chain segment, p is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10, q is an integer of 1 to 5, r is 0 or an integer of 1 to 10, s is an integer of 1 to 3, any one of X^1 , X^2 , Y , Y^1 and Y^2 is carboxyl group, Y , Y^1 and Y^2 may be contained at random in the segment A or B .

B3
16. (Amended) A process for preparing the fluorine-containing elastomer of Claim 3, which comprises polymerizing a fluorine-containing monomer by using, as one of a polymerization initiator and/or monomer, a compound giving carboxyl group to a trunk chain and treating a polymerization product with an acid.